

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (original): A stain removing chewing gum composition comprising a gum base and a stain removing complex of a stain removing agent and a cyclodextrin compound wherein said stain removing agent is present in a manner which enables an effective amount of the stain removing agent to be released from the chewing gum composition to achieve a stain removing effect on dental surfaces.

Claim 2 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the cyclodextrin compound is selected from the group consisting of α -cyclodextrin, β , and γ -cyclodextrin, derivatives thereof and combinations thereof.

Claim 3 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 2 wherein the cyclodextrin compound is selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropyl β -cyclodextrin, hydroxyethyl β -cyclodextrin, hydroxypropyl β - cyclodextrin, hydroxyethyl β -cyclodextrin, methyl β -cyclodextrin and combinations thereof.

Claim 4 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the molar ratio of the stain removing agent to the cyclodextrin compound is from about 1:0.1 to 1:10.

Claim 5 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 4 wherein the molar ratio of the stain removing agent to the cyclodextrin compound is from about 1:0.5 to 1:5.

Claim 6 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 5 wherein the molar ratio of the stain removing agent to the cyclodextrin compound is about 1:1.

Claim 7 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the stain removing complex is present in an amount of from about 0.001% to 20% by weight based on the total weight of the chewing gum composition.

Claim 8 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 7 wherein the stain removing complex is present in an amount of from about 0.1% to 15% by weight based on the total weight of the chewing gum composition.

Claim 9 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the amount of the cyclodextrin compound is sufficient to complex with the effective amount of the stain removing agent.

Claim 10 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the stain removing agent is present in an amount of from about 0.01% to 20% by weight based on the total weight of the chewing gum composition.

Claim 11 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 10 wherein the stain removing agent is present in an amount of from about 0.1% to 10% by weight based on the total weight of the chewing gum composition.

Claim 12 (previously amended): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the stain removing agent is selected from the group consisting of medium and long chain fatty acids, organic peroxides, perbenzoic acids, castor oil, sulfated butyl oleate, medium and long chain fatty acid esters, ricinoleic acid and salts thereof, sodium oleate, salts of fumaric acid, potassium glomate, organic acid esters of mono and diglycerides, succistearin, dioctyl sodium sulfosuccinate, glycerol tristearate, lecithin, hydroxylated lecithin, sodium lauryl sulfate, acetylated monoglycerides, succinylated monoglycerides, monoglyceride citrate, ethoxylated mono- and di-glycerides, sorbitan monostearate, calcium stearyl-2-lactylate, sodium stearyl lactylate, lactylated fatty acid esters of glycerol and propylene glycerol, glycerol-lactoesters of C₈-C₂₄ fatty acids, polyglycerol esters of C₈-C₂₄ fatty acids, propylene glycol alginate, sucrose C₈-C₂₄ fatty acid esters, diacetyl tartaric or citric or lactic acid esters of mono- and di-glycerides, and triacetin and combinations thereof.

Claim 13 (withdrawn) The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the stain removing agent is selected from the group consisting of glycerol-lactoesters of C₁₄-C₂₀ fatty acids, polyglycerol esters of C₁₄-C₂₀ fatty acids, and sucrose C₁₄-C₂₀ fatty acid esters.

Claim 14 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the stain removing agent is selected from the group consisting of sodium stearate and sodium palmitate and combinations thereof, sodium oleate, mixtures of citric acid or lactic acid esters of monoglycerides and diglycerides, glycerol stearate, glycerol laurate and combinations thereof, sucrose monostearate, sucrose distearate, sucrose monolaurate, sucrose dilaurate, polyglycerol esters of monostearate, and polyglycerol esters of monolaurate and combinations thereof.

Claim 15 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the stain removing agent is selected from sodium stearate, sodium palmitate and combinations thereof.

Claim 16 (withdrawn) The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the stain removing agent is a mixture of organic acid esters of mono- and di-glycerides.

Claim 17 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the chewing gum composition is in the form of a slab or stick.

Claim 18 (original): A stain removing chewing gum composition comprising a gum base core and an optional coating having at least one layer, at least one of said core and coating comprising a stain removing complex of a stain removing agent and

a cyclodextrin compound, wherein said stain removing agent is present in a manner which enables an effective amount of the stain removing agent to be released from the chewing gum composition.

Claim 19 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 18 wherein the chewing gum composition is a centerfill chewing gum composition having a centerfill and a gum portion, said stain removing complex being present in the centerfill, the gum portion or both.

Claim 20 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 18 in the form of a coated chewing gum composition wherein the stain removing complex is present in the coating, the core or both the coating and the core.

Claim 21 (original): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 20 wherein the stain removing complex is present in the coating.

Claim 22 (original): A method of removing stains from teeth comprising administering to the oral cavity of a warm-blooded animal including humans an effective amount of the stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1.

Claim 23 (original): A method of producing the stain-removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 comprising adding the stain removing complex in one of the last steps of forming the chewing gum composition to enable the stain removing

complex to be loosely contained with the chewing gum composition whereby the stain removing complex is effectively released upon chewing.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): A stain removing confectionery composition comprising a stain removing complex of a stain removing agent and a cyclodextrin compound, said stain removing agent being present in a manner which enables an effective amount of the stain removing agent to be released from the confectionery composition.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): The stain removing confectionery composition of claim 24 wherein the cyclodextrin compound is selected from the group consisting of α -cyclodextrin, β -cyclodextrin, γ -cyclodextrin, derivatives thereof and combinations thereof.

Claim 26 (withdrawn): The stain removing confectionery composition of claim 25 wherein the cyclodextrin compound is selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropyl β -cyclodextrin, hydroxyethyl β -cyclodextrin, hydroxypropyl γ -cyclodextrin, hydroxyethyl γ -cyclodextrin, methyl β -cyclodextrin and combinations thereof.

Claim 27 (withdrawn): The stain removing confectionery composition of claim 24 wherein the molar ratio of the stain removing agent to the cyclodextrin compound is from about 1:0.1 to 1:10.

Claim 28 (withdrawn): The stain removing confectionery composition of claim 27 wherein the molar ratio of the stain removing agent to the cyclodextrin compound is from about 1:0.5 to 1:5.

Claim 29 (withdrawn): The stain removing confectionery composition of claim 28 wherein the molar ratio of the stain removing agent to the cyclodextrin compound is about 1:1.

Claim 30 (withdrawn): The stain removing confectionery composition of claim 24 wherein the stain removing complex is present in an amount of from about 0.001% to 20% by weight based on the total weight of the confectionery composition.

Claim 31 (withdrawn): The stain removing confectionery composition of claim 30 wherein the stain removing complex is present in an amount of from about 0.1% to 15% by weight based on the total weight of the confectionery composition.

Claim 32 (withdrawn): The stain removing confectionery composition of claim 24 wherein the stain removing agent is present in an amount of from about 0.1% to 10% by weight based on the total weight of the confectionery composition.

Claim 33 (withdrawn): The stain removing confectionery composition of claim 24 wherein the stain removing agent is selected from the group consisting of medium

and long chain fatty acids, organic acids, organic peroxides, perbenzoic acids, anti-bacterial organic compounds, castor oil, sulfated butyl oleate, medium and long chain fatty acid esters, ricinoleic acid and salts, sulfated butyl oleate, medium and long chain fatty acid esters and salts thereof, sodium oleate, salts of fumaric acid, potassium glomate, organic acid esters of mono- and di-glycerides, succistearin, dioctyl sodium sulfosuccinate, glycerol tristearate, lecithin, hydroxylated lecithin, sodium lauryl sulfate, acetylated monoglycerides, succinylated monoglycerides, monoglyceride citrate, ethoxylated mono- and di-glycerides, sorbitan monostearate, calcium stearyl-2-lactylate, sodium stearyl lactylate, lactylated fatty acid esters of glycerol and propylene glycerol, glycerol-lactoesters of C₈-C₂₄ fatty acids, polyglycerol esters of C₈-C₂₄ fatty acids, propylene glycol alginate, sucrose C₈-C₂₄ fatty acid esters, diacetyl tartaric or citric or lactic acid esters of mono and diglycerides, and triacetin and combinations thereof.

Claim 34 (withdrawn): The stain removing confectionery composition of claim 33 wherein the stain removing agent is selected from the group consisting of glycerol-lactoesters of C₁₄-C₂₀ fatty acids, polyglycerol esters of C₁₄-C₂₀ fatty acids, and sucrose C₁₄-C₂₀ fatty acid esters.

Claim 35 (withdrawn): The stain removing confectionery composition of claim 33 wherein the stain removing agent is selected from the group consisting of sodium stearate and sodium palmitate and combinations thereof, sodium oleate, mixtures of citric acid or lactic acid esters of monoglycerides and diglycerides, glycerol stearate,

glycerol laurate and combinations thereof, sucrose monostearate, sucrose distearate, sucrose monolaurate, sucrose dilaurate, polyglycerol esters of monostearate, and polyglycerol esters of monolaurate and combinations thereof.

Claim 36 (withdrawn): The stain removing confectionery of claim 35 wherein the stain removing agent is selected from sodium stearate, sodium palmitate and combinations thereof.

Claim 37 (withdrawn): The stain removing confectionery composition of claim 24 wherein the stain removing agent is a mixture of organic acid esters of mono- and di-glycerides.

Claim 38 (withdrawn): The stain removing confectionery composition of claim 24 wherein the chewing gum composition is in the form of a slab or stick.

Claim 39 (withdrawn): A method of removing stains from teeth comprising administering to the oral cavity of a warm-blooded animal including humans an effective amount of the stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1.

Claim 40 (withdrawn): A method of removing stains from teeth comprising administering to the oral cavity of a warm-blooded animal including humans an effective amount of the stain removing confectionery composition of claim 24.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the stain removing complex is added to the chewing gum composition in a dry state.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the stain removing complex comprises the stain removing agent within a cavity of the cyclodextrin compound.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the stain removing agent is selected from anionic and non-ionic surfactants.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the stain removing agent is selected from the group consisting of glycerol-lactoesters of C₁₄-C₂₀ fatty acids, polyglycerol esters of C₁₄-C₂₀ fatty acids, and sucrose C₁₄-C₂₀ fatty acid esters.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the stain removing agent is a mixture of organic acid esters of mono- and di-glycerides.

Claim 46 (new): The stain removing chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the stain removing agent is an antibacterial organic compound selected from

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the group consisting of thymol, eugenol, menthol, tea tree oil, cardamon oil, carvacrol, triclosan, fernesol, neem oil, chlorhexidine, magnolia extract, parabens, benzothonium chloride, and combinations thereof.